of Road Transport and Highways has constituted a Committee to examine Dispute Resolution Mechanism in the works under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase I, II & III.

(b) Setting up an alternative dispute resolution would be considered, if recommended by the Committee.

(c) Committee's recommendations are awaited.

(d) The Committee would evolve an effective and acceptable mechanism for removal of bottlenecks in implementation of the NHDP projects.

NHDP Phase-III

982. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under NHDP Phase-III Government are contemplating to develop 10,000 Km. at an estimated cost of fifty thousand crores;

(b) if so, the basis of selecting the National Highways under NHDP Phase-III;

(c) whether it is a fact that Hyderabad-Mumbai NH was not included under NHDP Phase-III; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not including the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The stretches have been identified under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-III based on following criteria:—

(i) High Density Corridor;

(ii) State Capital Connectivity;

(iii) Stretches of Economic importance; and

(iv) Stretches having tourist traffic, pilgrimage traffic and World Heritage Centres.

(c) and (d) Hyderabad is connected to Mumbai *via* NH-9 and NH-4. The stretch of NH-4 from Mumbai to Pune is already 4-laned and the stretch of NH-9 from Pune to Sholapur is included in NHDP Phase-III for which the Detailed Project Report (DPR) is in progress.

NH projects running behind schedule

983. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many National Highway Projects are running behind schedule;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there has been complaint that in many sectors the road construction was far below than the standard norms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) Some of the National Highway Projects are running behind schedule due to problems associated with land acquisition, shifting of utilities and poor performance of contractors.

(c) and (d) Few complaints have been received about quality of material used in construction and rutting on National Highways.

Increase in road accidents on NHs

984. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the road accidents that occurred during 2003—05, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the accidents increased after the four laning of National Highways; and

(c) if so, the measures ensuring safety of passengers by Government to reduce accidents?